

'Soviet Sources': Karmal May Be Ill, Replaced

AU121151 Paris AFP in English 1149 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 12 (AFP) — Afghan President Babrak Karmal may be ill, according to reports from Soviet sources in Kabul, and he may soon be replaced by his defence minister, General Nazar Muhammed, Western diplomats said here today.

Analysts in Islamabad, however, were sceptical about latest rumours concerning Mr. Karmal's imminent replacement. General Nazar, is a member of the Khalq (People) faction of the Communist Party while Mr. Karmal belongs to the rival Parcham (Flag) faction.

Observers said the choice of Gen. Nazar would indicate a significant revision of Soviet policy in Afghanistan. However, the diplomats noted that the reports marked the first time since Mr. Karmal came to power in 1979 that Soviet sources had floated such a report.

The 56-year-old secretary-general of the Afghan People's Democratic (Communist) Party and chairman of the Revolutionary Council was last seen in public on February 4 in Kabul at a meeting of tribal chiefs from Helmand Province.

Western diplomats, who watched the ceremony on television, said the head of state appeared to be in good health. However, Mr. Karmal rarely appears in public, and his last provincial tour was in autumn 1983.

Afghan resistance sources here even suggested that since the presidential palace came under guerrilla rocket fire last December, President Karmal has fled to Mazar-e Sharif, a town near the Soviet border.

Gen. Nazar was the Army commander-in-chief until he took over as defence minister on December 3. He has belonged to the party Central Committee since the "April Revolution" of 1978.

In another report on the Afghan conflict, diplomats said that 60 Soviet soldiers were believed to have been killed on January 20 when a military convoy was ambushed by guerrillas outside Qandahar.

Diplomats here, quoting a witness, said that several helicopters flew in the next day to collect the bodies.

A week earlier, they said, Soviet troops machine-gunned customers of a Qandahar bazaar in reprisal for guerrilla attacks against a customs office nearby.

In addition, for the third successive week, Soviet troops were said to be massing in the Shomali plains leading to the Panjshir Valley guerrilla stronghold.

But according to the last message from guerrilla chief Ahmad Shah Massoud, the expected spring offensive by Soviet Afghan forces had not started by early February.

Along the Pakistan border, anti-insurgent forces were reported to be pursuing "mopping up" operations and the Afghan Islamic

press of Peshawar said that 25 villagers in Jalalabad were knifed to death on February 7 by Afghan forces, according to information from an informer.

Meeting Marks State Security Services' Anniversary

LD120043 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1601 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Excerpts] The 5th anniversary of founding the State Security Services of the DRA [KHAD] was marked today with a glorious meeting.

This meeting was attended by Najibullah, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and head of KHAD; Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Brigadier General Muhammad Yasin Saddiqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and head of Army political affairs; Brigadier General Gol Aqa, member of the PDPA Central Committee and vice president of the DRA Revolutionary Council; President Brigadier General Nazar Muhammad, member of the PDPA Central Committee and DRA minister of defense; Brigadier General Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzy, member of the PDPA Central Committee and minister of interior; Brigadier General Muhammad Faruq, member of the PDPA Central Committee and head of the Political Affairs Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs; Abdul Haq Ulumi, in charge of the Ministry of Defense Department of the PDPA Central Committee and secretary of the Central Committee of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan; a number of advisers from the friendly country of the Soviet Union; and staff and employees of organs and units of KHAD.

The meeting began with the DRA national anthem, followed by a message from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, on the occasion of KHAD's 5th anniversary, read by Mahmud Barialay. The message says in part:

The PDPA founded KHAD in a sensitive historical moment and gave it the duty of defending the gains of the April Revolution. KHAD's 5 years of work and struggle prove that the State Information Services under PDPA leadership have developed, strengthened, and been transformed into a reliable and militant counterpart of the party and sharp sword in defense of the April Revolution.

Another part of the message reads: The important principles of KHAD's functions are loyalty to the PDPA cause, the April Revolution, and the revolutionary government, maintaining strong and lasting links with the masses, continuation of our efforts with the DRA's Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Internal Affairs; and continuation of resolute and effective struggle against the enemies of the people of Afghanistan.

Then Najibullah spoke and he said: On the occasion of KHAD's 5th anniversary, we renew our pledge of loyalty to the party Central Committee, the Politburo, and beloved leader Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

promise that under PDPA leadership we will look more critically than ever at our performance to overcome shortcomings and deficiencies.

We know that the KHAD can only preform the task assigned it by the revolution, party, and state when it serves the masses and learns from them. We pledge that we will determine the authority and credibility of our department by its popularity. Our department believes that it can only achieve victory in the enemy's undeclared war when all sections of the Armed Forces, with an iron-like fist, perform their duties with joint effort and coordination. We pledge that the KHAD will be the frontrunner in joint efforts with the Army and the Sarandoy.

Sherberghan Party Committee Holds Plenum *LD081748 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT* *8 Feb 85*

[Text] The third plenum of the city party committee in Sherberghan, capital of Jowzjan Province, convened yesterday in light of the decisions and resolutions of the 14th PDPA Central Committee Plenum to further consolidate governmental authority.

At this plenum, which was also attended by Yazi Oilich Dehqan, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee, the secretary of the city party committee presented a report on the activities and accomplishment of the city party committee during the past 10 months.

Seven participants, consisting of the representatives of the primary party and social organizations then expressed their views concerning the basic report, and in approving it they displayed their preparedness to further consolidate governmental authority in the localities and enhance the role of residential party organizations. The plenum's draft resolution was then unanimously approved.

Security 'Completely Restored' in Helmand Province *LD092002 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT* *9 Feb 85*

[Text] The session of the members of the joint headquarters, Helmand Province, was recently convened in the Helmand Province conference hall. The session was attended by Abdul Majid Sarboland, member of the PDPA Central Committee and deputy chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers.

At this session, attended also by Muhammad Hakim, head of the southern zone, reports were presented by Governor of Helmand Khan Jan, Sarandoy commander and military commissar of Helmand Province, on the progress of the process of conscription and call-up, and work among the tribes and nationalities.

These reports in part say:

The work of conscription and call-up has advanced 260 percent [as heard] since 21 March 1984 until now in accordance with the plan; and more than 500 patriotic youths have voluntarily joined the ranks of the country's Armed Forces.

The Sarandoy ranks of Helmand Province have been able to ensure security in this province, after crushing counterrevolutionary elements, has been completely restored.

The Helmand Province tribes and nationalities have further consolidated their links with the party and government organs and take active part in the solution of local issues through the formation of 12 tribal jirgas and creation of 5 prosecutive commissions.

At this session it was decided that the gathering center and the offices of the military commissariat of this province, should be reconstructed.

The session's work was positively assessed by the vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and he expressed satisfaction at the result of work and activities of the respective officials.

Operations Against Rebels in Farah Successful *LD102125 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT* *10 Feb 85*

[Text] As a result of the courageous security forces' successful operations in various corners of the country the satanic nests of the rebels were destroyed and our compatriots are being relieved from the evil of their crimes.

The recent successful operations carried out in the environs of Anar Darrah District, Farah Province, resulted in the crushing of a number of counterrevolutionary elements and the seizure of a large quantity of weapons, ammunition, and documents, clearly establishing their direct links with foreign [countries].

Two counterrevolutionary food-supply depots were also seized and the so-called cultural committees and hideouts of the murderer bands of Harakat-e Enqalabi were destroyed.

In accordance with another report, several of the deceived individuals who had established links with the murderer bands of the so-called Jamiat-e Islami, due to the counterrevolutionaries' hostile propaganda have recently surrendered to the security authorities of Fariab Province, bringing their weapons with them, and thus availing themselves of the Revolutionary Council's general amnesty decree.

In repenting their past deeds, they gave the assurance to defend the motherland and crush the counterrevolutionaries.

Rebels Crushed, Weapons Seized in Konduz *LD091553 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT* *9 Feb 85*

[Text] As a result of the successful operations by the country's vigilant security forces of Qal'eh-ye Zal District, Konduz Province, a number of the rebels, including their ringleaders, Naji and Nader, belonging to Jamiat-e Islami band, were crushed and 96 of these criminals with their ringleader, Khoddi Nazer, were captured.